

Minutes
Catawba County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session, Monday, March 17, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

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The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, March 17, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Sherrills Ford Elementary School, 8103 Sherrills Ford Road, Sherrills Ford. This meeting followed a Community Information Meeting which took place from 4:00-6:30 p.m. in the same location where County Staff was available to talk to citizens about the proposed Mountain Creek Park, the extension of sewer lines in Southeast Catawba County, library services and a new early voting precinct at the new Sherrills Ford Fire and Rescue base.

Present were Chair Katherine W. Barnes, Vice-Chair Lynn M. Lail and Commissioners Dan Hunsucker, Barbara G. Beatty and Glenn E. Barger.

Also present were County Manager J. Thomas Lundy, Assistant County Manager Lee Worsley, County Attorney Debra Bechtel, Deputy County Attorney Anne Marie Pease and County Clerk Barbara Morris.

1. Chair Katherine W. Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Commissioner Dan Hunsucker led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Pastor Perry offered the invocation.
Chair Barnes then asked that all members of the Board and staff seated at the dais to introduce themselves to the audience.

4. Commissioner Dan Hunsucker made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Monday, February 18, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Recognition of Special Guests: Chair Barnes welcomed everyone present and specifically Sheriff Huffman, City Councilman from Conover – Don Beal, and recognized Commissioner candidate Jack Beach and noted Barbara Beatty and Dan Hunsucker were also candidates and she was a candidate for the North Carolina Senate.
6. Comments for Items not on the Agenda.
Chair Barnes invited those who wished to come forward to speak to items not on the agenda. The following comments were made:

Lori Barklage – 5535 E. Bandys Cross Road – Wanted to know if the new Mountain Creek Park was in place of planned improvements at existing parks, or would be in addition to those improvements.

Earl Kiser – Kiser Island Rd – represented Sherrills Ford Concerned Citizen group – against proposed location for the new ABC Store – there needed to be a better location than in front of a church. 140 had signed a petition against the location. The Village Center would be a more appropriate location. Wanted their concerns voiced to the ABC Board.

Mike Roth – 7921 E. NC 150 – property owner next to the proposed ABC Store location. Proposed a paper ballot vote from the Sherrills Ford community on the location.

Christopher Lee Sigmon – 8405 Slate Street – Thought long and hard if he should sell for ABC Store – people are buying at ABC store in Iredell County – with this store, funds would be in this county. Said some sort of business would be on that site - Compared the ABC store to a convenience store that could be placed there – the ABC Store was not open on Sunday or after 9:00 p.m. The historic home on the site was going to be moved and preserved – proceeds from the sale of the property would be used for that purpose.

Dee Green – 3139 Mt. Creek Drive – against ABC Store – quoted stats from MADD website.

Betty Holdsclaw – 4111 Kiser Island Rd. – Rehobeth United Methodist Church member – against the ABC Store in Sherrills Ford at all and particularly right in front of Church.

Don Parham - Don's Pt – worked for 2 years on development of the area – ABC Store doesn't control drinking, parents do. – He was against where they wanted to place the store.

Eric Martin - Hopewell Church Road – there was one ABC Store already 5 minutes down the road – didn't know why another was needed – opposed to adding another store – money should be spent on nursing homes.

Larry Brown – 4536 Enoch Drive - against the ABC store at any location in the area – another one not needed.

Tanya Eades – Pops Dr. Catawba – questioned the Board about assistance (grant and engineering) – the Optimist Club in making an active park in Sherrills Ford – they already had donated land.

Freddy Smith - 4520 Lake Drive – started to talk about convenience center – against Slanting Bridge location

Larry Brown (again) - people should use GDS

Earl Kiser - Kiser Island Road - the optimist park needed to be developed – need a gym – asking the County for help.

Chair Barnes then advised those present that the Board of Commissioners had no control over the operations of the ABC Board. She stated the ABC Board operated independently and by law it was prescribed that x-number of dollars earned by the operations of the ABC stores was to be given to the County for mental health substance abuse issues but it was the ABC Board's right to operate the stores. She then clarified that to the Board of Commissioners' knowledge, only an option had been taken on the subject property but if that property was to be used for the site of an ABC store, they would be required to come before the County's Planning Board and be subject to the guidelines set forth in the UDO and to date, nothing had been brought to the County for review. Chair Barnes concluded that she would ensure the above comments would be forwarded to the ABC Board for information.

7. Appointments:

Commissioner Hunsucker recommended the reappointment of Jo Anne Craddock for a 6th term and Wayne Hicks for a 2nd term on the Dangerous Dog Appellate Board. These terms will expire on November 4, 2010. Vice-Chair Lynn Lail recommended the reappointment of Pamela Lowdermilk and Sandra Foster for second terms on the Nursing and Rest Home Advisory Committee. Ms. Lowdermilk's term will expire January 16, 2011 and Ms. Foster's term will expire April 15, 2011. These recommendations came in the form of a motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Chair Barnes then thanked the County Staff for being present for the community information meeting which took place before this meeting.

8. Consent Agenda:

County Manager J. Thomas Lundy presented the following items under the consent agenda and explained to the audience the concept of the consent agenda:

a. A request for the Board to approve two tax refund requests totaling \$159. Records had been checked and these refunds verified, therefore the County Tax Collector recommends approval. Under North Carolina General Statute 105-381, a taxpayer who has paid his or her taxes may request a refund in writing for an amount paid through error.

b. Receipt of the Catawba County Community Child Protection Team Annual Report for 2007, as required by the State. The team was established in February 1992. The State later mandated a Child Fatality Review Team and Catawba County elected to combine the two teams in 1995. The combined teams have met quarterly since inception, except for specially called meetings. The Child Protection Team has the legal responsibility for reviewing cases of child fatalities when the family is known to the Department of Social Services, and identifying areas in Protective Services needing improvement, in order to maximize the safety of the community's children. The Child Fatality Team's purpose is to provide a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary approach to study cases of childhood death in Catawba County, in order to attempt to reduce child fatalities. The local directors of Social Services and Public Health have specific responsibilities for each team and the Board of Commissioners determines whether to combine the two teams. Although they are combined in Catawba County, this report addressed the work of the Community Child Protection Team. It indicated that the Team had been active. It had been involved in the safe surrender of infants, in child welfare cases across county lines, in public information on co-sleeping of adults and infants, in regional citizen review panels, and in the review of child fatality cases.

Chair Barnes asked if any of the Commissioners wished to have an item broken out of the consent agenda and none were requested. Vice-Chair Lail made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Departmental Reports:

a. Public Health:

Doug Urland, Public Health Director, presented a request from the Catawba County Board of Health to increase the overall Home Health budget by \$252,500. Mr. Urland first noted that the Home Health Agency had just gone through the accreditation process and were certified for the next three years. He then went on to explain the request for budget increase. These additional costs will be covered by earned revenues, and no new County funds were being requested. This request related

to the need for additional funding for medical supplies, travel, education, telephone, postage, advertising, physical therapy and occupational therapy services. Since the beginning of the fiscal year, Home Health's caseload has increased, resulting in a need to increase budgeted funds. The caseload increases have resulted in additional changes, including higher costs for therapy services and increased mileage rates. County Manager Lundy clarified that the home health program was designed to let people leave the hospital earlier and receive treatment in their homes. Commissioner Barger made a motion to approve the budget increase. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Mental Health:

John Hardy, Area Mental Health Director, presented a request to increase the current Mental Health budget by \$883,416, bringing it to a total of \$24,356,127.42. This revision adds five new positions with no requests for additional County funding. State allocations in the amount of \$68,416 will be used to partially support mobile crisis/ES services and train law enforcement personnel in the proper responses to citizens experiencing incidents involving mental illness. \$800,000 in Medicaid contracts will be appropriated for increased service demands. \$15,000 from the Mental Health Fund Balance will help support the building of a covered, ADA accessible, fenced area for the Adult Life Program. Personnel changes will include five full-time employees for the Catawba Local Managing Entity, which are funded in the current budget and require no additional funds. These positions will include an account specialist to handle accounts payable and purchasing; a human resource director to maintain all personnel and related duties, as these functions are separated from management by the County; a care coordinator to manage new State performance requirements related to the tracking of the mentally ill who are incarcerated; an administrative support position to manage data entry, and a support specialist to assist in managing the increased volume of medical records submission associated with the addition of Burke County consumers. County Manager Lundy re-emphasized that no County money was involved but these were Federal Medicaid dollars coming through the State. Vice-Chair Lail made a motion to approve this request. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Barger asked if the Burke County Commissioners also had to approve this increase and Mr. Hardy indicated that was not the case in this instance.

c. Information Technology:

Terry Bledsoe, Chief Information Officer, presented a request for the Board to accept a grant in the amount of \$42,240 from the North Carolina Office of Emergency Services' 2008 EMS Toolkit Grant Program, in partnership with the Duke Endowment. The grant will enable the 911 Communications Center to fund an Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Quality Assurance and Training position for one year. Catawba County has been using Emergency Medical Dispatch Protocol since March 2001 and has been recognized as a leader in this protocol. The County's goal is to ensure that the EMD Protocol is uniform, to provide the maximum utilization of emergency response vehicles and manpower to callers in non-emergency or emergency situations, and provide standardization of dispatch procedures for EMS, fire, rescue, and law enforcement. To ensure that this goal is met, telecommunicators require extensive training to become certified, and numerous hours of continuing education to maintain certification. In addition to personnel certification, National EMD Certification for the Communications Center requires that a Quality Assurance Program be in place to review protocols set forth.

To assure constant improvement in the EMD process, the Duke Endowment is funding grants totaling \$2.8 million across North Carolina. The grant funds three levels, to first begin an EMD program, then to create policies and procedures around that program, and finally to implement quality assurance and program improvement. Catawba County has completed the first two levels and has applied for funding for the quality assurance level. Funding will also support the 911 Communications Center's first outcome to ensure citizens receive prompt emergency and medical care through the Center's maintaining a 90 second average dispatch time on all emergency calls throughout the County.

The grant will pay for a Quality Assurance/Training position, plus benefits, for a period of one year beginning in March 2008 and ending in February 2009. This position will review the EMD process used in the Communications Center, analyze data, revise procedures for improved service, provide training to current telecommunicators and train new telecommunicators. The grant will also pay for

training of three personnel in AQUA Quality Management Software. Continuation of this position is recommended, but not required, and will be requested in the 2008-2009 County budget. The Communication Center had a senior telecommunicator doing this training in 2006. Due to call volume, this telecommunicator was reassigned to telecommunicator duties. Part of the training was picked up by EMS and other agencies. Currently, telecommunicators are required to complete 36 hours of continuing education per year. National EMD Certification also requires that 2% of medical calls be reviewed weekly. This person will assume this duty. The County's Fiscal Year 2008-09 budget will include grant funding for the position through February and request County funding for the remainder of the year.

Commissioner Barbara Beatty made a motion to approve this request. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Beatty asked Mr. Bledsoe to advise those citizens present of the County's Community Alert System through which they may sign up, through the County website, to receive an automated telephone call and/or an e-mail message when an emergency situation is occurring in the area for which they indicate they want such notification. This system by the County and all three public school systems, both hospitals, Catawba Valley Community College and the cities of Conover, Hickory and Newton.

d. Utilities and Engineering:

1. Barry Edwards, Utilities and Engineering Director, started out his presentation by remarking it had been a pleasure talking with citizens during the information session prior to the meeting. He then presented a request for the Board to approve an increase in solid waste management fees, as of July 1, 2008, to meet a mandated new State tax of \$2 per ton of solid waste, and rising expenses at the landfill. This would raise the solid waste tipping fee from \$30 to \$33 per ton for municipal solid waste and increase the Construction and Demolition Landfill tipping fee from \$19.50 to \$21.50 per ton.

In July 1995, the Board of Commissioners increased solid waste tipping fees to \$30 per ton. Municipalities and citizens were promised at that time that the tipping fee would not increase for ten years. The County has actually held this fee stable for almost thirteen years. During the last thirteen years, landfill and supporting solid waste operational costs have changed significantly with the rising costs of fuel, equipment, construction, personnel, Federal and State operational requirements and mandates, and demand for additional public services. Since the last fee increase in 1995, two Subtitle D lined landfills have been built and construction began on a third lined cell in January 2008. The County has built two construction and demolition landfill units and just completed an expansion to unit 2. It has developed a landfill gas methane recovery system with a 3 megawatt electrical production system. Services have been expanded to include household hazardous waste collection events, community service programs, recycling and waste reduction education, and code enforcement. Due to State mandates, certification and training costs for staff have increased by 74% since 1995. In 1995, the landfill processed 171,629 tons of solid waste. It produced 208,234 tons in fiscal year 2006-07, an increase of 21%. Equipment costs have increased 11%, tires 45%, repair and maintenance costs 32%, and fuel costs are up 300%. Convenience Center operations have also increased, in excess of 25%. The convenience centers had operating costs of \$581,054 in fiscal year 2006-07. All five sites have had capital improvements over the past four years.

All costs associated with the landfill and solid waste activities are funded from the County's Solid Waste Enterprise Fund, which is derived from solid waste tipping fees and contains no tax proceeds. During last year's budget hearings, staff reported to the Board of Commissioners that a solid waste tipping fee increase was warranted in order for the Enterprise Fund to remain viable and continue to address the rising cost of operation. Based on recommendations from a 2007 study, staff proposed an increase of \$5 per ton, effective July 1, 2008, which would have allowed the County to again hold fees stable for ten years. Staff was directed by the Board to evaluate alternative fee structures or strategies, with the Board saying it preferred small increases over a short term to one large increase after ten years. After further study and meetings with municipalities, staff concluded a \$1 per ton increase on July 1, 2008, and subsequent \$1 per ton increases in future years, is the best alternative. This would allow the County to accurately account for increased revenue from a

renegotiated contract with Duke Energy anticipated in 2009, and capture cost savings generated by shared relationships in the County's EcoComplex. Municipalities also preferred small increases vs. one large increase in 10-year blocks.

The North Carolina General Assembly passed Senate Bill 1492 in 2007, which created a statewide solid waste disposal tax and increased permitting requirements and costs. Senate Bill 1492 mandates that each Solid Waste Management program transfer \$2 per ton to the State for each ton of municipal solid waste and construction and demolition debris that is buried. The Blackburn Landfill is expected to receive approximately 204,000 tons in fiscal year 2008-2009, which equates to \$408,000 resulting from the new tax. The solid waste disposal tax also applies to construction and demolition waste that must be buried. Therefore, staff recommended the Construction & Demolition Landfill tipping fee be increased from \$19.50 per ton to \$21.50 per ton to cover the mandated \$2 State waste disposal tax. The convenience center fees will not be addressed at this time since the site for the Sherrills Ford center has not yet been determined. Chair Barnes and Commissioner Hunsucker agreed with Mr. Edwards' comments on the fact that this tax was mandating that a county which took care of their landfills like Catawba County was paying the price for those counties which had not acted as responsibly. Chair Barnes said it was commendable that the County had been able to maintain the existing tipping fees for 13 years. Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to approve the increase in fees as proposed – not including the convenience center fees. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Barry Edwards, Utilities and Engineering Director, presented an informational item on the Southeastern Catawba County Convenience Center Site Study Comparison. Chair Barnes noted that this was not an action item for this meeting – it was for information purposes only and the Board would not take action.

Catawba County provides five solid waste convenience centers for citizens who elect not to use curbside solid waste collection and hauling services. Of these five solid waste convenience centers, the Sherrills Ford Center is the only site the County does not own. The County previously held a lease on the property, which has expired, and did not renew the lease because the existing site is inadequate to meet the County's goals for expanded services.

At a Board of Commissioners planning retreat on October 15, 2007, staff recommended relocating the Sherrills Ford Convenience Center to approximately 40.95 acres of County-owned property located on Slanting Bridge Road, approximately 0.7 miles south of the intersection with Highway 150, at a cost then estimated at \$690,720. Staff was directed by the Board to identify and assess properties, other than the Slanting Bridge Road tract owned by the County, that meet the requirements for a relocation site for the existing Sherrills Ford Convenience Center.

Staff worked with the Southeast Area Council of the Catawba County Chamber of Commerce for assistance in identifying alternative sites. The County also further evaluated improvements to the existing Sherrills Ford Convenience Center through the purchase of the existing property and additional adjacent property. The County was unable to negotiate an acceptable new lease of additional property, or purchase the required property in order to remain at the existing location. County staff met with Southeast Area Council members on November 13, 2007, and the Area Council agreed to identify other potential sites by the end of January 2008. The Area Council identified an area located on Steam Plant Road, off Sherrills Ford Road approximately 1.6 miles north of the intersection with Highway 150, for relocation of the Sherrills Ford Convenience Center. The owners of the six properties on this section of Steam Plant Road were contacted by the County to determine any interest in relocating the Convenience Center to Steam Plant Road. Three of the property owners indicated they were not interested in selling any property, and two did not respond. Only one property owner, Brenda, LLC, responded favorably regarding a 5 acre site on the southern portion of a 22.25 acre tract. Therefore, the Brenda, LLC site was compared to the Slanting Bridge Road site.

A site study comparison was performed on the Brenda, LLC property on Steam Plant Road and the County owned property on Slanting Bridge Road by McGill Associates, Inc. A report compiled by McGill estimates the cost of relocating the Sherrills Ford Convenience Center to the Steam Plant

Road site at \$924,258 more than the estimated cost of relocating to the Slanting Bridge Road site, (\$1,667,228 for the Steam Plant Road site and \$742,970 now estimated for the Slanting Bridge Road site). The McGill report also points out that the Steam Plant Road site requires that Steam Plant Road be paved from a railroad crossing to the proposed site, at an estimated cost of \$116,000.

The safety and efficient use of the site is negatively affected by potential blockages by freight trains and because the site is located on a dead end road. The study found that the Steam Plant Road site is hindered by minimal natural buffering and minimal area to install additional buffering, by the required relocation of electrical lines and poles, and by property purchase costs. The report further finds that the Slanting Bridge Road site offers the most cost effective approach for the proposed project, and eliminates the need for possible traffic control systems that may be required at the Steam Plant Road site due to the railroad crossing at the intersection of Sherrills Ford Road and Steam Plant Road.

The State mandated solid waste disposal tax of \$2 per ton, discussed in item 1 above, also applies to convenience center waste. In order to recover the capital improvement and operational costs and the State tax costs associated with the convenience centers, the per bag fee would need to be increased by 25 cents per bag, to \$1.25 per bag, if the Sherrills Ford site is relocated to the Slanting Bridge Road site. If the Sherrills Ford site is relocated to the Steam Plant Road site, the per bag fee would need to be increased by 50 cents per bag, to \$1.50 per bag.

Mr. Edward indicated another site had been suggested to him but after attempting to contact the owner of the property, he had had no response from the owner.

Chair Barnes then asked the public to wait with their questions until the Board members could ask their questions. She asked Mr. Edwards about the road issues and clarified that they did not have current traffic counts for Slanting Bridge or Sherrills Ford – Mr. Edwards said they had 2005 figures – and indicated there was more traffic on Slanting Bridge than on Sherrills Ford Road. Commissioner Hunsucker asked about the \$1.6 million figure and if it included the paving that was now not going to be an expense – it was clarified that the \$1.6 million figure would be reduced by \$116,000. Commissioner Beatty added she thought the cost of the property the County owned on Slanting Bridge Road should be added to the total cost of that site for an accurate comparison. Commissioner Barger questioned the value placed on the Slanting Bridge property vs. the property on Steam Plant Road – and Mr. Edward said that part of it was that Steam Plant Road property was zoned industrial – so from a commercial/industrial standpoint it is more valuable. Commissioner Barger asked how the County could get an up to date traffic count on the subject roads and Mr. Edwards said the County could hire a consultant or pay NCDOT to do it. Mr. Barger asked about the truck traffic – Mr. Edwards explained the estimate was 269 truckloads in 2007 that brought garbage from existing Sherrills Ford Convenience Center to the landfill. Chair Barnes said she would like comments from NCDOT about the blind spots and safety issues and noted there had been difficulty getting permits for traffic lights for safety conditions. Mr. Edwards suggested that the Board request this info as he had no results from his requests for such information. Commissioner Lail asked about the potential for one more site – and Mr. Edwards said he had received a phone call from one of the SE Council members about a possible site but the property owner had not returned Mr. Edwards' calls. Commissioner Hunsucker indicated the Board appreciated all the information but there were a lot of questions to be answered. Mr. Edwards then explained some of the problems at the existing site and that a lease was now required as well as removing some of the services currently there at the demand of the property owner and as conditions of the lease (oil and antifreeze collection) and environmental testing would likely be required. Chair Barnes stated while they needed to do due diligence in locating a location for this convenience site, she thought it could not wait a year and could not be continually put off. She suggested investigating the third site that was mentioned and then make a decision. She then asked those who opposed the Slanting Bridge site to stand so the Board had a sense of the opposition and then those who opposed the Steam Plant Road site – a far greater number of people stood opposing the Slanting Bridge site.

She then asked for comments from the audience and a brief summary of each comment follows:

Mike Nolton – traffic terrible - heard there was a third site to be looked at – needs to be explored.

Chuck Connors – 9235 Sherrills Ford Road – has used convenience center for 27 years – understands they need a new one but the decision is being made too fast – the Site Plan Comparison was biased – doesn't include costs of turn lanes – watershed needs to be looked at.

Ralph Graham – 4533 Enoch Road – the traffic on Slanting Bridge Road terrible – should not do a convenience center there until it is a 4 lane.

Mandy Merchant - 7973 Barkwood Lane – lives across the street from the proposed Slanting Bridge site – there are already traffic problems – and location would be more convenient for Lincoln County resident and there would be a problem policing them using the center.

Anna Blanton – Archies Pt. – thought the Slanting Bridge property location would be risky/unsafe due to traffic and it was too close to the Village Center.

Colon Fulk – 4305 Pointe Norman Dr. – is a railroad consultant – thought staff should slow down and look at more sites, explore more – consider the use of the railroad in the future when choosing a site.

Larry Brown - 4536 Enoch Drive – staff should look at the Slanting Bridge location at 7:30 a.m. – with school buses and blind curves – lots of accidents on that road – traffic issues needed to be looked at.

Jerry Blanton – Archies Pt – A convenience center at Slanting Bridge doesn't go with the Village Center – did know why County was helping GDS – concerns about traffic – noted many deaths on that road.

Margaret Hale – 4219 McGee Pt Rd – owns and operates a store in Terrell – had concerns about the traffic if Slanting Bridge site was used.

Daren Rowell – Minister at church – just wanted to say he was against the convenience site.

Pat and Kevin Johnson – 3898 Burton Road (828) 478-2211 – Property on Dockside Road – boat storage – commercial business was being conducted on residential property – digging a huge hole – ugly – didn't want to look at the hole. – Chair Barnes said staff would look into the issue.

Chair Barnes then said they would move on and thanked those people who came forward for their comments.

Commissioner Beatty invited Paul Carter to come up and introduce himself – as a local resident and a representative of the County on the Lake Norman Marine Commissioner and gave the specifics of the Marine Commissions meetings. Stated for the most part the navigational system was in good shape.

12. Other items of Business: None.

13. Attorneys' Report.

County Attorney Debra Bechtel (in her role as the Chairman of the Criminal Justice Partnership Committee) presented a request for the Board to approve the submittal of a grant application for State funding in the amount of \$119,527 for the Criminal Justice Partnership Program. The CJPP provides an effective bridge between the criminal justice system and community agencies for Intermediate Sanction offenders on supervised probation who are at risk of incarceration. Through a detailed needs assessment, appropriate referrals, treatment services for substance abuse and cognitive skills, and transportation when needed, the partnership program seeks to combine the influence of community-based legal sanctions and non-incarceration punishments with structured services in the community. By providing treatment services appropriate to the offenders needs, the

program seeks to address those issues that maintain criminal lifestyle for offenders. Utilizing the State's accepted offender management model, the program seeks to provide those services that will decrease criminal involvement and increase productive, socially acceptable behaviors. The grant will provide funds to serve approximately 75 people. Since July 1, 2007, fourteen participants successfully completed the program and were thus diverted from jail and have increased their odds against recidivism. Other participants are continuing in the program while seven have been incarcerated. The program's successful completion rate is 52%, which far exceeds the statewide average rate of 32%. The average daily cost of a participant in this program is \$15, while the approximate cost of local incarceration is \$45 per day and the cost of incarceration with the North Carolina Department of Corrections is over \$80 per day. Commissioner Barger made a motion to approve the submittal of this grant application. The motion carried unanimously.

14. **Manager's Report.**
County Manager J. Thomas Lundy requested the Board's consideration of the appointment of Ona Scruggs as the new County Tax Collector to succeed Jackie Spencer, who is retiring from the position effective May 1, 2008. The position was advertised and interviews were conducted and the appointment of Ona Scruggs was recommended for a term effective May 1, 2008 through June 30, 2008. Ona is a fourteen year veteran in tax collection with the County and is committed to the high collection rate of the County. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to approve this appointment. The motion carried unanimously.
15. **Adjournment:** Chair Barnes adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Board of Commissioners

Barbara E. Morris, County Clerk